

Brass Biz

The Ceremonial Brass has begun the new year with many exciting performances. On January 20, MSgts Tony Kirkland, Bruce Mosier, Bob Connolly, Tony Hagan and Todd Hanson (the Ceremonial Brass Quintet) performed at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new USO lounge at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Maryland Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Senators Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes, Air Force Chief of Staff General Michael E. Ryan, and actor James Brolin participated in the festivities. Also at the end of January, MSgts Gil Corella, Albert Islas and TSgt Jennifer Dayton participated in the United States Army Band Tuba/Euphonium Conference that was held January 26-29 at Ft. Myer in Virginia. All three members were a tremendous addition to the Mass Armed Forces Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble that included all participants of the conference. MSgt Corella also participated in a recital involving other military musicians in the local area.

MSgt Jari Villanueva brought credit upon himself and the United States Air Force in January, when he performed "Taps" for the dedication of the new monument of the 8th Air Force at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). MSgt Villanueva also received a Distinguished Individual Citation from the Colonel Joe Day Memorial for the ANC "Taps" exhibit, that he spearheaded.

SMSgt John Pursell will be published in the March 2000 issue of the International Trumpet Guild Journal. His article, "Pumping Brass: The Application of Athletic Weight Training Principles to Trumpet Embouchure Development," was also shared on February 26, when he was a clinician for the New Jersey Music Education Association. MSgt Gil Corella conducted the Loudon Concert Band in a concert titled "Music For Laughs" on February 26 at Broad Run High School in Ashburn, Virginia, featuring tenor banjoist Stephen DiBonaventura. MSgt Tony Kirkland will be an adjudicator and clinician at the Troy State University Trumpet Sym-

posium, which will be held March 3-5 in Troy, Alabama.

The Ceremonial Brass was busy during February, providing musical support for several functions. On February 9, MSgt Gil Corella and TSgts Daniel Valadie and Tara Smith joined the Concert Band in performance at the Texas Music Educators Association convention in San Antonio. The entire group played for a head-of-state arrival for the president of Spain on February 22 at Andrews Air Force Base. On February 24, the ensemble performed at the Pentagon arrival for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Oman with General Henry H. Shelton presiding. There was also an Air Force arrival for the air chief of Hungary at Bolling Air Force Base on February 28 with Chief of Staff General Michael E. Ryan hosting. On March 12, the Ceremonial Brass will participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade at noon on Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C.

We would like to welcome back SMSgt Ed Teleky from the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy and TSgts Kent Baker and Scott Hinds from the Noncommissioned Officer Academy. They all returned in January. Special accolades go to SMSgt Teleky and TSgt Baker for being selected as Distinguished Graduates. Also returning from the NCO Academy is TSgt Sean Walsh, who graduated in the middle of February.

The Ceremonial Brass is pleased to welcome our new officer-in-charge, 2Lt Michael Mench. Lt Mench is formerly of Philadelphia, and has spent the last two years as the deputy commander of the USAF Band of the West at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He received his bachelor of music education degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and also earned a master of music degree from Florida State University. Also joining him is his wife, Linda, and son Alexander.
-TSgt Tara Smith

The Concert Band

The Concert Band came through the big snowstorm in late January to record two compact discs. The first is a disc of works commissioned by The United States Air Force Band and the second is a CD of marches. Colonel Graham conducted both projects. Coming up, we will continue our participation in the Guest Artist Series with concerts on March 5, 19 and 26. On March 10 at 8 p.m., we will perform a concert at Charles County Community College in La Plata, Maryland, and on March 12 look for us in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Washington, D.C. Come see us in performance at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Virginia, where we will present a

joint concert with the Bishop Ireton Band on April 15 at 8 p.m.

Congratulations go out to our acting principal flutist, TSgt Sharon Nokes, who was named Noncommissioned Officer of the 3rd Quarter for the 11th Wing, and Volunteer and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the 11th Operations Group. We also want to recognize the achievements of three of our musicians who recently completed school. Harpist, TSgt Eric Sabatino was the president of his class at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy in Florida, and hornist TSgt Phil Krzywicki was the commander of his flight at the academy as well. Flutist MSgt Lucy Snell fur-

thered her military education at the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy in Alabama. We are proud to have these fine airmen representing us at these schools.

We bid a fond farewell to two of our members. Clarinetist MSgt David Aspinwall is separating from the Air Force following seven years of distinguished service. Also separating from the Air Force is bassoonist TSgt Lawrence Burke, who has served his country proudly for five years. Sadly, we announce the passing of Art Will, retired chief master sergeant, who was a solo cornetist with the Concert Band. He died on January 24, 2000, at the age of 83.
-MSgt Jeffrey Gaylord